



**Soccer Nova Scotia  
COMPETITIONS HANDBOOK**

Last Amended March 2019  
Competitions Committee

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Competitions Handbook is meant to serve as a reference source for organizers, clubs, teams, officials, and players that participate in competitive soccer events in Nova Scotia under the direct control of Soccer Nova Scotia.

The Handbook shall be reviewed annually and re-published as frequently as required by the Soccer Nova Scotia Competitions Committee. The most recent version of the Handbook shall be circulated to members on the Soccer Nova Scotia website by October 1st for any changes effecting upcoming Outdoor play and by May 1st for any changes effecting the upcoming Indoor play.

### 1.1 Revisions

The following process will be followed for any changes or revisions to the Competition's Handbook:

- Proposed changes for consideration should be submitted in writing to the Soccer Nova Scotia office.
- Submitted changes shall be presented at the next Competitions Committee meeting for approval. Where committee members feel more information is required, including feedback from effected Regions or Leagues, the submission shall be tables for consideration at the next Competitions Committee meeting.

### 1.2 Related Documents

The Handbook is meant to be used in conjunction with the ***Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures, Soccer Nova Scotia Bylaws***, and any additional ***Competition Game Rules published by Soccer Nova Scotia***. Where conflicts do exist between this Handbook and these other documents, the Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures, Soccer Nova Scotia Bylaws and/or the Competition Game Rules published by Soccer Nova Scotia shall prevail.

Reference should be made to the Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures where applicable, particularly the Players, Teams, and Leagues sections for more details and specific requirements, including deadlines for player and team registrations.

This Handbook also refers to several ***Application and Report forms***. For simplicity and efficiency in distribution, these forms are not included in this Handbook but are available from the Soccer Nova Scotia office or the Soccer Nova Scotia website

## 2. IMPORTANT DATES

### 2.1 Applications for Tournaments

Outdoor Inter-district tournaments must submit written applications for sanctioning to the SNS office no later than March 1st each year. Outdoor District tournaments must receive sanctioning from their district.

Indoor Inter-district tournaments must submit written applications for sanctioning to the SNS office no later than October 1st each year. Indoor District tournaments must receive sanctioning from their district.

The Competitions Committee Chair shall review all submitted applications and determine sanctioning within a reasonable time frame.

Late applications must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the tournament start date and must include a non-refundable late application fee of \$250.

### 2.2 Applications for Provincial Championships

Regions or Leagues interested in hosting a Provincial Championship must be submitted to the Soccer Nova Scotia office on or before June 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

Hosts shall be declared by July 15<sup>th</sup> annually.

### 2.3 Provincial Championships Dates

The general dates-weekends for summer provincials are:

|                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Premier AA Men/Women | Third week of August              |
| U21 Men/Women        | Third full weekend in August      |
| U17 AAA Boys/Girls*  | Third full weekend in August      |
| Senior A Women       | Third full weekend in August      |
| Masters Men          | Weekend before Labour Day weekend |
| Senior A Men         | Weekend before Labour Day weekend |
| U15 AAA Boys/Girls*  | Weekend before Labour Day weekend |
| U15 AA Boys/Girls    | Weekend before Labour Day weekend |
| U13 AA Boys/Girls    | Weekend before Labour Day weekend |
| U18 A Boys/Girls     | Weekend before Labour Day weekend |
| U13 A Boys/Girls     | Labour Day weekend                |
| U15 A Boys/Girls     | Labour Day weekend                |
| U18 B Boys/Girls     | Labour Day weekend                |
| U13 B Boys/Girls     | Weekend after Labour Day weekend  |
| U15 B Boys/Girls     | Weekend after Labour Day weekend  |
| Women's 7-a-side     | Last full weekend in September    |

*\*U15 AAA and U17 AAA Provincials have been replaced with a Challenge Cup competition in 2019 – See appendix A for details.*

The Competitions Committee shall annually review these dates, revise, and approve actual dates each year at the March Competitions Committee meeting.

### 3. TOURNAMENTS

#### 3.1 Sanctioning

Sanctioning of Tournaments by Soccer Nova Scotia applies only to tournaments that involve teams from outside of the Region where the tournament is being hosted (with the 'Region' being defined in Soccer Nova Scotia Bylaws). Tournaments involving only teams within a Region only requires sanctioning by the Region.

Requests for sanctioning requires completing and submitting a **Tournament Sanction Request Form** to the Soccer Nova Scotia office by the dates outlined under "Important Dates" in section "2.1 Applications for Tournaments".

The Competitions Committee shall form a sanctioning sub-committee to review and approve each application.

- Applicants may be required to attend a meeting with the sub-committee to review their applications
- A decision on sanctioning shall be given no later than March 31 annually.
- For late applications approval shall be given as quickly as possible.

Sanctioning shall be based on:

- Anticipated availability of game officials
- Potential conflicts with previously sanctioned tournaments
- Potential conflicts with League operations
- Adherence to Soccer Nova Scotia requirements for any previously sanctioned Tournaments.

An Application must include a \$250 bond payment at time of application, such bond to be held until all tournament requirements outlined in this handbook are met. Soccer Nova Scotia reserves the right to require an additional Performance Bond based on past compliance issues.

#### 3.2 Promotion-Advertising

Tournament Organizers shall not be permitted to advertise or promote a tournament until official sanctioning has been given.

#### 3.3 Game Officials

The certification level of Game Officials required for any sanctioned tournament shall be determined by Soccer Nova Scotia, and assigners are expected to follow these standards for all games.

Where these standards cannot be met by any Host due to a shortage of qualified game officials in the region, the tournament organizers must work with Soccer Nova Scotia to arrange for assigning of other region officials or be granted approval to use lesser qualified officials.

#### 3.4 Reporting

All sanctioned tournaments are required to file a **Post-Tournament Report**. The Soccer Nova Scotia office must receive this report in writing within twenty-one (21) days of the final day of play of the tournament.

Where the report is not received within the deadline, Soccer Nova Scotia will cash the bond and donate the bond value to Kidsport.



## 4. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 4.1 Applications

Any Club, Inter-District League, or District League, District Association, or Provincial League wishing to host a Provincial Championship must complete and submit a **Provincial Championship Hosting Application Form** to the Soccer Nova Scotia office by the dates outlined under “Important Dates” in section “2.2 Applications for Provincial Championships”.

Where a Club, Inter-District League, or District League wishes to apply, it must do so through its District Association - Applications shall only be accepted from a District Association or a Provincial League. Applications must be signed by the president of the District Association or the League.

Applications must also include a **Letter of Opinion** from the applicable Referee Authority, with this letter containing feedback on the ability of the hosting Region to provide necessary game officials.

- For Youth A/B divisions this letter should be prepared by the Regional Referee Authority as listed on the Soccer Nova Scotia website
- For all other divisions this letter should be prepared by the Soccer Nova Scotia Referee Development Officer.
- Each Region must host at least one Youth Championship each year.

### 4.2 Sanctioning

The Competitions Committee shall review all applications for hosting and award provincials hosts by the date outlined under “Important Dates” in section “2.2 Applications for Provincial Championships”.

Hosts for each Division will be selected on a ‘Regional’ basis.

Soccer Nova Scotia staff will consolidate the Provincial Championship Hosting Application submissions into a list that will identify what Regions have bid to host what Divisions. The Competitions Committee will award hosts using the process outlined below.

#### 4.2.1 Selection Process

Each representative of the committee will draw a number to determine their ‘Selection Order’. This selection order will be used in any of the selection steps listed below.

The awarding of each Division will then be determined in the following manner/order:

**1. Review of feedback from Referee Association**

If the regional assigner or Soccer Nova Scotia Referee Development Officer have raised any concerns for a Region’s ability to adequately meet game officiating needs, the Committee shall review such cases, and potentially vote to remove that submission from the process.

**2. Divisions with only 1 submission**

Any Region that has identified one of these Divisions will have the opportunity to select or decline that division. Should the Region decline, that Division shall be then considered as having no submissions.

**3. Divisions with 2 or more submissions**

Order for the selection of each Division Host will be from fewest submissions to most divisions

(e.g. 2 regions, 3 regions, 4 regions, etc.).

Where the same number of submissions exist for any Division, the order shall be from youngest/lowest Division to the oldest/highest as listed on the Matrix (top to bottom).

#### 4. Divisions with NO submissions

Divisions will be reviewed from youngest/lowest Division to the oldest/highest as listed on the Matrix (top to bottom). Each Region, in order of original draw, will be given the option to select a Division.

If no Regions selects a Division, Soccer NS will begin a process to re-seek a host.

- a. All Districts-Clubs will be emailed requesting interest to host any of the unselected Divisions.
- b. Any received submissions will be reviewed on May 15:
  - i. If only one submission for any Division, that Region will be awarded hosting
  - ii. If more than one submission, the Division will be awarded based on the original Draw Order determined earlier.

#### 5. Exception Policy

The committee may choose to supersede the process at any stage of the process and award a specific division to a specific region if it feels this will better serve the best interest of member clubs, regions, and Soccer Nova Scotia. Such an exception requires majority consent of the committee.

### 4.3 Withdrawal from Hosting

Once a bid to host has been accepted by the Soccer Nova Scotia Competitions Committee, that Host is required to fulfill its obligation. If the Host then withdraws from its hosting responsibilities, the hosting District or League shall be fined \$750, unless that District or League can show evidence, acceptable to the Competitions Committee, that the withdrawal was caused by necessity.

### 4.4 Hosting Responsibilities

All Provincial Championships require a local Organizing Committee to manage the planning and delivery of the event. This committee, along with other organizations listed below, need to perform specific responsibilities as listed below to stage a successful championship. The responsibilities listed here provide all groups involved with Provincial Championships a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in any Provincial Championship.

#### 4.4.1 Soccer Nova Scotia Competitions Committee Responsibilities

The majority of tasks this committee is responsible for are carried out once a year:

- Appoint a Soccer Nova Scotia Representative for each Championship.
- Review Soccer Nova Scotia Representatives' ***Provincial Championship Reports***.

#### 4.4.2 Soccer Nova Scotia Office Responsibilities

- Arrange for Championship packages to be prepared and delivered. Packages to include:
  - a cheque for referee fees;
  - handbooks;
  - schedules;
  - extra game sheets;

- where applicable medals, badges, championship banner, and substitute slips (for Youth AA/AAA and Premiership).

NOTE: Game sheets will be produced by the host organizer from the Provincials website, extra game sheets are provided in case of issues with printing game sheets.

- Arrange for scheduling of Referees at AA/AAA youth and Premiership championships and/ or cup competition.
- Coordinate with Regional Representatives on Competitions Committee, the notification, completion and submission to the office, by the required dates, of the following forms:
  - Provincial Championship Host Application Forms;
  - the Soccer Nova Scotia Representatives Provincial Championship Reports.
- Throughout every Provincial Championships have a staff member available for contact.
- Print Official Team Registration forms and provide copies to host Championship Coordinators and Soccer Nova Scotia Provincial Championship Representatives at least 24 hours prior to the start of play.
- Send pre-championships information to provincial media.

#### 4.4.3 Soccer Nova Scotia Representative Responsibilities

Soccer Nova Scotia shall appoint a Soccer Nova Scotia representative to act on Soccer Nova Scotia's behalf at each provincial competition. The Soccer Nova Scotia representative shall:

- Be available at all times of play to act as the authority for Soccer Nova Scotia where required
- Convene and chair a pre-tournament meeting prior to the start of the competition.
- Record whether the meeting is attended by all team representative (the coach and/or manager from each competing team) a referee's representative, and the host organizing committee representative.
- Convene and chair any hearings necessary to handle any discipline or protests arising at the competition.
- Make decisions where required on any items not covered in the Competitions Handbook. In this regard, a meeting of all team representatives, acting as a Rules Committee, may also be convened, but the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative shall have the final authority.
- Submit a completed **Provincial Championship Report** form, together with a copy of any **Misconduct Reports**, to the Soccer Nova Scotia office at the completion of the competition.

#### 4.4.4 Organizing Committee Responsibilities

Under the authority and direction of the Host, the Organizing Committee is responsible for the items listed below.

It should be noted that during the Championship the Championship Coordinator shall be the lead person responsible for meeting these responsibilities.

Should the Organizing Committee or Championship Coordinator desire to carry out any further actions or events not listed below they must first seek approval from the Soccer Nova Scotia office.

Mandatory responsibilities include:

- Ensure there are adequate District funds budgeted to cover hosting costs;
- Ensure that that a Championship Organizing Committee is appointed to establish financial controls, budgets, reports and plans to administer the Championship;
- Designating a Championship Coordinator and provide contact information to Soccer Nova Scotia at least 30 days prior to the Provincials.

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NOTE: This person will be the primary contact before and during the event and should always be available during games.

- Booking suitable playing fields, and ensuring they meet the required standards.
- When requested by visiting teams, arranging accommodations for them.
- Booking meeting rooms/locations for championship needs (pre-tournament team reps meeting, discipline and appeals meetings, etc.).
- For A/B Youth, Senior A, Masters Men and Women's 7-a-Side, liaising with local referee association regarding the appointment of game officials.
- For AA/AAA Youth and Premier championships and or cup competition, liaising with Soccer Nova Scotia office to ensure that referees have been appointed.
- Setting up a Discipline Committee.
- Supplying the game balls, nets and corner flags at all fields.
- Providing a Field Marshal at each field to check team sheets, deliver/collect game balls and assist the Tournament Chairperson.

The Field Marshal shall check team sheets prior to the start of each game. Any discrepancies shall be reported to the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative immediately. The Field Marshal is responsible for notifying the Tournament Chairperson of the results of all games no later than one hour after the completion of any game.

- Providing proper washroom facilities; at a minimum, hosts must ensure that public washroom facilities are within a half kilometer walk from the fields of play.
- Paying game officials on site or alternate arrangements approved by Soccer Nova Scotia.
- Having the hosting Championship Contact Person be available on cell phone throughout the Championship.
- Having inter-field communications (cell phone).
- Posting game results in convenient location for participants to see.
- Collecting and retaining game sheets after each game and updating the Soccer Nova Scotia Provincials website with results.
- Organizing presentation of any medals or banners to applicable teams at the end of any medal/championship games.

The Organizing Committee may also carry out any of these Optional Responsibilities:

- Providing opening ceremony, welcome/championship packages for teams.
- Providing skill competitions, social activities, game refreshments etc. for teams, hospitality suite.
- Having Championship T-shirts or other items available to buy. Merchandise must be approved by Soccer Nova Scotia.
- Providing special awards (Player of the Game, Top Scorer, Sportsmanship, etc.) with approval of Soccer Nova Scotia Competitions Committee.
- Providing refreshments for referees and other officials.
- Providing Championship program, identifying teams, players, team colours etc.
- Providing ball boys/girls to retrieve balls out of play.
- Setting up advance local publicity and having local media cover events.
- Liaising with provincial and local sponsors, if any. Local sponsors, these must be pre-approved by the Soccer Nova Scotia Executive Officer.
- Providing closing ceremonies and protocol (guest appearances, etc.).
- Providing seating for spectators.

## 4.5 Hosting Standards

### 4.5.1 Field Requirements

Hosts must provide soccer fields for provincial play that meet the following requirements:

- Their quality and dimensions shall be as indicated in the 'Provincial Championships - General Rules and Regulations' section of this handbook. Note that field dimensions are preferably longer than the minimum requirements.
- Hosts wishing to use artificial playing surfaces must apply for permission to the Soccer Nova Scotia Competitions Committee, including the request in the Provincial Championship Host Application Form.
- Hosts are responsible for having the fields rented, lined, mowed, watered if necessary, and prepared to meet the above standards.
- Goals must meet FIFA Law requirements. Goals must have good quality nets free from holes.
- Corner flags are required as per Laws of the Game.

Championships with 6 teams or less require 2 fields. Championships with 8 teams require 4 fields. Additional fields must be available in case of severely inclement weather or field damage by vandalism.

### 4.5.2 Game Balls

Two good quality game balls, meeting standards of the Laws of the Game, shall be available for each Game Field, and shall be provided by the Field Marshal to the Referee before each game.

### 4.5.3 Washroom Facilities

Hosts must ensure that public toilets are within a half kilometre walk from the fields of play. If there are none available, then the hosts must provide at least one portable toilet at the fields of play where more than one game per day is played.

### 4.5.4 Meeting Rooms

Hosts must supply a meeting room or tent to be used as the Championship Office, particularly for the Pre-Tournament Meeting of Team Representatives and Discipline Committee Meetings

### 4.5.5 Medical Attention

The Host is not required to obtain emergency medical services at each playing field but is required to insure an Emergency Response Plan is posted and available at all game fields.

An Emergency Response Plan must contain:

- Civic Address for the Field or nearest adjacent property
- Emergency Resources available at the field (staff, phone, first aid supplies, AED)
- Emergency Response Procedures
- Address/Map/Directions to nearest Hospital/Emergency Services centre

### 4.5.6 Game Officials-Referees

The certification level of Game Officials required for any Provincial Championship shall be determined by Soccer Nova Scotia, and assigners are expected to follow these standards for all games.

Where these standards cannot be met by any Host due to a shortage of qualified game officials in the region, the Host must work with Soccer Nova Scotia to arrange for assigning of other region officials or be granted approval to use lesser qualified officials

The Host shall be responsible for compensating referees for any travel related costs. For referees from within the host region the standard travel compensation rates for that region shall be used; for referees from outside the region, travel compensation shall be based on Soccer Nova Scotia rates.

#### 4.6 General Rules & Regulations

Provincial outdoor championships will be held annually for the following categories for both genders:

|         | U13 Boys-Girls | U15 Boys-Girls | U18 Boys-Girls | U21 Men-Women | Senior Men-Women | Premier Men-Women | Masters Men | Women 7aside |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| AAA     | ✓              | *              | *              |               |                  |                   |             |              |
| AA      | ✓              | ✓              |                |               |                  |                   |             |              |
| A       | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓             | ✓                |                   |             |              |
| B       | ✓              | ✓              | ✓              | ✓             |                  |                   |             |              |
| Premier |                |                |                |               |                  | ✓                 |             |              |
| Other   |                |                |                |               |                  |                   | ✓           | ✓            |

*\*U15 AAA and U17 AAA Provincials have been replaced with a Challenge Cup competition in 2019 – See appendix A for details.*

Soccer Nova Scotia may designate fewer or more Championships in any given year for any age category based on the number of registered teams or changes in age categories.

If a Host is not identified in any given year for any age category, Soccer Nova Scotia has the discretion to not hold a Championship in that age category.

Soccer Nova Scotia may, at its discretion, introduce indoor championships.

Teams entering Provincial Championships must complete their entire Provincial Championship schedule. For teams not completing their match schedule at Provincials:

- a fine of \$250 will be applied to the host District Association or League of the applicable team;
- the players and coaches of such team shall be considered as not eligible for Provincials the following year.

A District Association or League empowered to designate Provincial Championship representative teams must inform the Soccer Nova Scotia office in writing of non-participation of any representative team from their District Association or League in any Provincial Championship at least seven (7) days before the championship's first game.

Failure to do so shall result in a fine of double the current Provincial Championship entry fee to the District Association or League.

All fines must be paid in full to Soccer Nova Scotia prior to the Soccer Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting, unless otherwise stated in these Rules and Regulations. Soccer Nova Scotia shall donate the value of any such fines to Kidsport.

### 4.6.1 Pre-Tournament Meeting of Team Representatives

All participating teams in any Provincial Championship are required to send a team representative to the Pre-Tournament Meeting chaired by the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative. This meeting shall normally take place prior to play on the first day of competition.

Teams participating in Provincial Championships will pay their Provincial Championships entry fee to the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative (cheques made payable to 'Soccer Nova Scotia') at the pre-championship meeting of Team Representatives. Teams shall pay this entry fee before their first scheduled game or will be ineligible to participate.

Teams not represented at the pre-tournament meeting will be fined Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). This fine will be levied to the Club and is to be paid to Soccer Nova Scotia for donation to KidSport. The fine must be paid to the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative (cheque made payable to 'Soccer Nova Scotia') before their first game or the team(s) will be ineligible to participate.

## 4.7 Championship Formats

### 4.7.1 Number of Teams

The format of each Provincial Championship shall be as designated annually by Soccer Nova Scotia through the Competitions Committee based on the following guidelines:

#### **Youth A/B, Senior A:**

- Any Division with 10 or more teams across the province shall be a 6-team tournament
- Any Division with 9 or less teams across the province shall be a 4-team tournament

#### **Youth AA/AAA-Premier**

- A 4-team tournament

#### **Women 7aside**

- A 6-team tournament

#### **- Master Men**

- To be determined each year based on teams

The Competitions Committee may override these guidelines where circumstances require an exception

### 4.7.2 Schedules

Based on the number of teams for any Provincial Championship, the applicable schedule shown below shall be followed.

The Competitions Committee or Soccer Nova Scotia may approve schedule formats other than those shown here when circumstances require so.

Hosts may adjust actual locations and times based on field availability with prior approval of Soccer Nova Scotia. No game will take place before 9:00 a.m. on any given day without the advanced permission of Soccer Nova Scotia.

#### 4.7.2.1 Premier Divisions

The schedule and format for Premier division Provincial Championships shall be determined annually by the Provincial Soccer League in consultation with Soccer Nova Scotia.

#### 4.7.2.2 Three teams

One Group; Single Round-robin:

| Date      | Time | Teams-Games        |
|-----------|------|--------------------|
| Wednesday | 7pm  | A vs B             |
| Thursday  | 7pm  | B vs. C            |
| Friday    | 7pm  | A vs. C            |
| Sunday    | 9pm  | Final - 1st vs 2nd |

#### 4.7.2.3 Four teams – Single Knockout

One Group; 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 4 based on League Standings

| Date     | Time | Field 1   | Field 2   |
|----------|------|---|---|
| Saturday | 10am | Game 1 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> vs 3 <sup>rd</sup>       | Game 2 - 1 <sup>st</sup> vs 4 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Sunday   | 10am | Game 3 – Bronze<br>(loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 2) | Game 4 – Gold<br>(winner Game 1 vs winner Game 2) |

#### 4.7.2.4 Four Teams – Round Robin

One Group, Single Round-robin in each Group;

Saturday

| Game | Time | Location | Home | Away |
|------|------|----------|------|------|
| 1    | 10am | Field 1  | A    | B    |
| 2    | 10am | Field 2  | D    | C    |
| 3    | 4pm  | Field 1  | A    | C    |
| 4    | 4pm  | Field 2  | D    | B    |

Sunday

| Game       | Time | Location | Home            | Away            |
|------------|------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 5          | 10am | Field 1  | D               | A               |
| 6          | 10am | Field 2  | B               | C               |
| 7 - Bronze | 4pm  | Field 1  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| 8 Gold     | 4pm  | Field 2  | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |



#### 4.7.2.5 Five teams

Two Groups (Group 1 with 2 teams, Group2 with 3 teams); Single Round robin in each Group;  
Saturday:

| Game | Time | Location | Home | Away |
|------|------|----------|------|------|
| 1    | 10am | Field 1  | A    | B    |
| 2    | 10am | Field 2  | D    | E    |
| 3    | 1pm  | Field 1  | F    | D    |
| 4    | 4pm  | Field 2  | E    | F    |

Sunday:

| Game       | Time | Location | Home                  | Away                  |
|------------|------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 5          | 10am | Field 1  | 1 <sup>st</sup> GRP 1 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> GRP 2 |
| 6          | 10am | Field 2  | 1 <sup>st</sup> GRP 2 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> GRP 1 |
| 7 – Bronze | 2pm  | Field 1  | Loser Game 7          | Loser Game 8          |
| 9 - Gold   | 3pm  | Field 2  | Winer of Game 7       | Winner Game 8         |

#### 4.7.2.6 Six teams

Two Groups; Single Round robin in each Group;

Saturday

| Game | Time | Location | Home | Away |
|------|------|----------|------|------|
| 1    | 10am | Field 1  | A    | B    |
| 2    | 10am | Field 2  | D    | E    |
| 3    |      | Field 1  | C    | A    |
| 4    |      | Field 2  | D    | F    |
| 5    | 4pm  | Field 1  | B    | C    |
| 6    | 4pm  | Field 2  | E    | F    |

Sunday

| Game   | Time | Location | Home                    | Away                    |
|--|------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7  | 10am | Field 1  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Group A | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Group B |
| 8  | 10am | Field 2  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Group B | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Group A |
| 9 - 5 <sup>th</sup> / 6 <sup>th</sup>        | 12pm | Field 1  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Group A | 3 <sup>rd</sup> group B |
| 10 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Bronze | 2pm  | Field 1  | Loser Game 7            | Loser Game 8            |
| 11 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Gold     | 4pm  | Field 1  | Winner game 7           | Winner Game 8           |

#### 4.7.2.7 Eight Teams

Two Groups; Single Round robin in each Group;

Saturday

| Game | Time | Location | Home | Away |
|------|------|----------|------|------|
| 1    | 10am | Field 1  | A    | D    |
| 2    | 10am | Field 2  | B    | C    |
| 3    | 12pm | Field 1  | E    | H    |
| 4    | 12pm | Field 2  | F    | G    |
| 5    |      |          | A    | C    |
| 6    |      |          | B    | D    |
| 7    | 4pm  | Field 1  | E    | G    |
| 8    | 4pm  | Field 2  | F    | H    |

## Sunday

| Game   | Time | Location | Home          | Away          |
|--|------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| 9  | 9am  | Field 1  | A             | B             |
| 10   | 9am  | Field 2  | C             | D             |
| 11   | 11am | Field 1  | E             | F             |
| 12   | 11am | Field 2  | G             | H             |
| 13 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Bronze | 2pm  | Field 1  | Loser Game 7  | Loser Game 8  |
| 14 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Gold     | 4pm  | Field 2  | Winner game 7 | Winner Game 8 |

## 4.7.2.8 Women 7-A-Side

## Friday

| Game | Time | Location | Home | Away |
|------|------|----------|------|------|
| 1    | 7pm  | Field 1  | A    | B    |
| 2    | 7pm  | Field 2  | D    | E    |

## Saturday

| Game | Time | Location | Home | Away |
|------|------|----------|------|------|
| 3    | 1pm  | Field 1  | C    | A    |
| 4    | 1pm  | Field 2  | D    | F    |
| 5    | 4pm  | Field 1  | B    | C    |
| 6    | 4pm  | Field 2  | E    | F    |

## Sunday

| Game   | Time | Location | Home                    | Away                    |
|--|------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7  | 10am | Field 1  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Group A | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Group B |
| 8  | 10am | Field 2  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Group B | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Group A |
| 9 - 5 <sup>th</sup> / 6 <sup>th</sup>        | 12pm | Field 1  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Group A | 3 <sup>rd</sup> group B |
| 10 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Bronze | 2pm  | Field 1  | Loser Game 7            | Loser Game 8            |
| 11 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Gold     | 4pm  | Field 1  | Winner game 7           | Winner Game 8           |

## 4.8 Championship Participation

Each Provincial Championship shall have a specific group of berths, dependent on the number of participating teams in each Schedule (the number of teams in each Provincial Championship is based on the format as outlined under the section “4.7 Championship Formats”).

## 4.8.1 Host Berths

All AA/AAA and Premier Provincials shall be hosted by Soccer Nova Scotia.

All other Provincials shall be hosted by a Region or League, and a one (1) berth position shall be awarded to the host. The hosting Region or League shall have the authority to designate the club team that shall fill this host berth.

Where the Host Club has more than 1 team identified to participate in any Provincials, the highest ranked team of that Club shall be designated as the Host team.

## 4.8.2 League Berths

Leagues with a division of four or more teams playing a regular schedule shall be awarded one (1) berth.

Where there are fewer Leagues than the number of available berths in any applicable Provincial Championship schedule, the Competitions Committee shall determine which Leagues are awarded more than one berth based on the number of league division teams, with a maximum of 12 teams recognized for any such league division. The seeding order for these berths shall be based on a seeding order provided by each League

Where there are more Leagues than the number of available berths in any applicable Provincial Championship schedule, the Competitions Committee shall determine a challenge format where two or more leagues must play off to identify a team for one or more berths.

All Leagues must declare all Provincials representative teams at least seven (7) days prior to the start date of the applicable Provincials

#### 4.8.3 Other Berths

Where any registered team does not have a League in which to participate in the area of the team's club, that team shall be considered eligible to apply to Soccer Nova Scotia for recognition as a potential 'Challenge' team.

- Any such team must submit a **Provincials Team Challenge Request form** to Soccer Nova Scotia before June 30.
- The team must be properly registered as a Competitive Team in the Tier Level and Age Category in which they wish to challenge, as per Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures.

Where a League division has less than four (4) teams but still operates a full schedule for those teams, those teams shall be considered eligible to apply to Soccer Nova Scotia for recognition as potential 'Challenge' teams.

- Any such League must submit a **Provincials Team Challenge Request form** to Soccer Nova Scotia before June 30, listing all teams in the applicable division.
- The League shall be responsible for determining the final-single team that shall be recognized as the challenge team for this request.

The Competitions Committee shall review all Challenge requests at the July committee meeting and determine both approval and challenge game formats for all requests.

- Where there are more than one challenge teams in any category, those teams shall play each other in a format as determined by the committee to identify a single challenge team.

All challenge games shall be subject to the following conditions:

- Challenge teams shall play the lowest seeded team of the League with the most berths. Where there is an equal number, the committee shall choose the impacted League by a draw
- All challenge games shall be played on the home field of the lowest seeded team of the League with the most berths.
- The Challenge team shall be responsible to pay for all costs associated with the game, including but not limited to any facility costs and referee costs. Where there are additional game required between only challenge teams, those teams shall split these costs equally.
- Soccer Nova Scotia shall be responsible for scheduling all challenge games

## 4.9 Player and Team Eligibility

### 4.9.1 Players

All Players shall be subject to the Age Category definitions and restrictions as outlined under 'Definitions of Age Categories and Tiers' in the 'Players' policy contained in the 'Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures'

### 4.9.2 Teams

Only teams and players properly registered with those same teams, as outlined under Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures, may participate in provincial championships for the specific season in which the team and players are registered.

For the purposes of Provincials Championships, the "SNS Official Team Roster" available from the automated SNS registration system shall serve as the list of eligible players.

### 4.9.3 Team Drop Outs- Team Replacements

The following policy will be applied where provincial championships are based on either regional or league representation:

Teams that drop out of Provincial Championships shall be replaced by the next highest ranked team in the applicable region or league.

If an applicable region or league had no original team or cannot replace the team that dropped out, the replacement team will come from the applicable region or league with the highest number of registered teams at the specific level (Tier/gender/age) of the championships. For this procedure the host region/league number of teams will be reduced by one. In the case of two or more applicable regions or leagues having an equal number of teams, Soccer Nova Scotia will conduct a draw to determine the order of team selection.

This procedure will continue until a replacement team is found.

Once an applicable region or league has replaced a team from another applicable region or league it will not be eligible to make another replacement until every other applicable region or league has been given the opportunity in the order as described above.

If a replacement team cannot be found, the format of the championships will be changed.

If a team eligible to play in any medal game drops out, if possible, the next highest seeded team from that division may be substituted in the medal game.

### 4.9.4 Player Identification

Youth age players must be in possession of a Soccer Nova Scotia ID Card which must be produced upon request not later than the conclusion of the game started by the players.

Player ID Cards generated by the Soccer Nova Scotia Player Registration System are recognized as an official Soccer Nova Scotia ID card (along with the current Soccer Nova Scotia ID Cards).

Soccer Nova Scotia ID Cards are not mandatory for Senior A, Senior B, Masters and Ladies 7-A-Side. If requested by tournament coordinator, players must be able to produce, not later than the conclusion of the game, a recognized legal identification card that includes a picture (eg. driver's license, birth certificate, passport) to be eligible to participate.

#### 4.9.5 Use of Ineligible Player

An Ineligible Player is defined as any player who does not meet the player registration-team registration-player identification policies of Soccer Nova Scotia. This includes participation of any player suspended from play from disciplinary actions.

Any team that ties or wins a game while using an ineligible player in that game during a championship shall be deemed to have lost that game by a 5-0 score.

#### 4.9.6 Number of Players Dressed

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Youth AAA      | - As allowed by Canadian Soccer Association rules.          |
| Premier        | - As allowed by Canadian Soccer Association rules.          |
| Masters        | - As allowed by Canadian Soccer Association rules.          |
| Youth AA/A/B   | - As allowed by Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures. |
| Senior A       | - As allowed by Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures. |
| Women 7 A Side | - As allowed by Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures. |

### 4.10 Game Rules

#### 4.10.1 General

Unless otherwise specified in this Handbook, all soccer competitions shall follow standard FIFA Laws of the Game as adopted by the Canadian Soccer Association.

Where category specific rules exist within Soccer Nova, those rules shall apply.

#### 4.10.2 Team Colours

All participating teams must provide their players with a team uniform shirt, shorts and socks of the same colour, and each shirt must have a number that distinguishes players from their teammates. Referees, in consultation with the Soccer Nova Scotia Rep., shall allow only players following this dress code to play.

Where the home team colours are similar to, or identical with, the colours of the visiting team, the visiting team must change into colours that are distinct from those of the home team. Teams from the host league/association will always be the home teams. Where two teams from the host league/association are playing each other, the highest seed will be given home team status.

Note: The referee's decision is final; all teams attending Provincial Championships should make every effort to have a spare set of uniforms or numbered pinnies available and be prepared to use them.

### 4.10.3 Substitutions

The following table outlines substitution rules for various Divisions:

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Senior A, Masters, and Youth A/B | There shall be unlimited substitutions with a maximum of three (3) players entering at any one time.  |
| Women 7-A-Side                   | There shall be unlimited substitutions.   |
| AA/AAA Youth, Premier            | There shall be a maximum of five (5) substitutions allowed during regulation time and overtime. Unlimited substitutions may be made at half time, or at full-time before any overtime. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter. No unlimited substitution at half-time of the overtime. |

### 4.10.4 Duration of Play and Size of Game Ball

For all Provincial Championships, the following shall be in effect:

| Age Group   | Regulation     | Overtime       | Ball Size |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Under 13 B  | 2 x 35 minutes | 2 x 10 minutes | 4         |
| Under13A/AA | 2 x 35 minutes | 2 x 10 minutes | Light 5   |
| Under 15    | 2 x 40 minutes | 2 x 10 minutes | 5         |
| Under 17    | 2 x 45 minutes | 2 x 15 minutes | 5         |
| Under 18    | 2 x 45 minutes | 2 x 15 minutes | 5         |
| Under 21    | 2 x 45 minutes | 2 x 15 minutes | 5         |
| Premier     | 2 x 45 minutes | 2 x 15 minutes | 5         |
| Senior A    | 2 x 45 minutes | 2 x 15 minutes | 5         |
| Masters     | 2 x 40 minutes | No extra time  | 5         |
| Women 7-a-  | 2 x 30 minutes | 2 x 10 minutes | 5         |

### 4.10.5 Delay of Game Start

The maximum wait time for a team to show up is fifteen minutes past the posted game time

### 4.10.6 Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy

The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all matches sanctioned by the CSA.

By understanding and following the information below, the safety of everyone shall be greatly increased. Ultimately the referee has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling

When lightning is detected, you can determine the distance of lightning in your area by counting the number of seconds between the flash and the first sound of the thunder and dividing by five (5). This will give you the distance in miles from your location. Remember, if you are in a higher elevation, the lightning can come upon you much quicker and your reaction time is greatly hindered.

### 30/30 RULE

When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is thirty (30) seconds or less, seek proper shelter. Wait thirty (30) minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving the shelter. If you cannot see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back up rule.

## 4.11 Competition Rules

### 4.11.1 Field Size

The minimum dimensions for provincial championship fields are as follows:

- Under 13                      75 m x 55 m
- Under 15                      92 m x 55 m
- Women 7-A-Side            46 m x 30 m (1/2 a full field)
- All other categories        92 m x 60 m

Note: These are minimum requirements. Fields larger than the minimum requirements are recommended.

### 4.11.2 Overtime

Where specified in these Rules, when the score is tied at the end of regulation time, overtime shall be played as outlined under "4.10.4 Duration of Play and Size of Game Ball". If the score is still tied at the end of the overtime, the winner shall be decided by taking kicks from the penalty spot, in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

### 4.11.3 Knockout Competition

In Provincial Championships where the "knockout format" is in effect, all games must have a winner. If the game is tied after regular time, overtime shall be played as outlined above.

### 4.11.4 Round-Robin Competition

In Provincial Championships where the "round-robin format" is in effect, the duration of all games shall be regulation time only

**EXCEPTION: In a three-team round-robin, the third game should be played to a decision if the team not participating in that game has six or zero points.**

Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a draw.

### 4.11.5 Tiebreakers

If two or more teams amass an equal number of points, the following Tiebreaker guidelines will be used to determine the final standings for all Championship Provincials.

Where more than two teams have amassed an equal number of points, any team that wins a tiebreak shall be ranked first, and the remaining tied teams shall continue to apply tiebreaking guidelines starting again with the first tiebreaking guideline.

#### **Guidelines (in Order of Precedence)**

1. Previous Match Results. The team with the best record (most points) in games involving only the tied teams shall be awarded the higher standing.

2. Goal Difference. The team with the best goal difference (total 'goals for' minus total 'goals against') shall be awarded the higher standing. A maximum difference of five (5) goals shall be awarded in each game.
3. Fewest Goals Allowed. The team allowing the fewest goals shall be awarded the higher standing.
4. Penalty Kicks. If two or more teams are still tied under the first three criteria, then the higher standings shall be decided by kicks from the penalty mark, as follows, with the winner awarded the higher standing:
  - Two teams tied:**

As per FIFA Laws of the Game, at a time and place decided by the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative.
  - Three teams tied:**

Each team is designated A, B or C. Three (3) mini-shootouts consisting of five (5) penalty kicks shall be played (A vs B, B vs C, C vs A), at a time and place to be decided by the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative. The standings after these three mini-shootouts shall be ranked according to the four criteria listed above.
  - Four teams tied:**

Each team is designated A, B, C or D. Six (6) mini-shootouts consisting of five (5) penalty kicks shall be played (A vs B, C vs D, A vs C, B vs D, D vs A and C vs B), at a time and place to be decided by the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative. The standings after these six mini-shootouts shall be ranked according to the four criteria listed above

## 4.12 Game Officials

### 4.12.1 Assigning

The Soccer Nova Scotia Referee Committee shall designate each year the procedure for appointing qualified officials for each game of the Provincial Championships.

- All Tier AA/A/B, Senior A, and Masters provincials shall have three (3) officials appointed to each game (referee and two assistants).
- All AAA and Premier provincial / cup competition games will be further provided with a fourth official.
- All Ladies 7-A-Side provincials shall have one (1) official appointed to each game (a referee).

Under no circumstances will the two (2) referee systems be used.

### 4.12.2 Referee and Assistant Expenses

The responsibility for the game fees of the officials will be borne by Soccer Nova Scotia. If referees must be obtained from outside of the Host Region, the Host Association shall be responsible for covering the cost of mileage and meals for out-of-district referees in accordance with Soccer Nova Scotia rates.

### 4.12.3 Reporting

The referee must complete and pass the game sheet over to the Host Coordinator or Field Marshall within fifteen (15) minutes of the completion of the game.



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If the referee intends to file a Misconduct report, it must be noted on the game sheet and the misconduct reports must be delivered to Championship Coordinator or Soccer Nova Scotia Representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the game.

## 4.13 Tournament Discipline, Conduct, and Protests

### 4.13.1 General

The Soccer Nova Scotia Representative for Provincial Tournaments, whenever possible, will be neither a player nor a referee.

The Soccer Nova Scotia Representative shall chair the Tournament Discipline and Protest Committee when necessary, consisting of three (3) persons identified by the Organizing Committee and approved by Soccer Nova Scotia.

The standard Soccer Nova Scotia Discipline policy as contained in the Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures shall apply at all Provincial Championships, with the exceptions any discipline contained herein.

Copies of any Misconduct reports created during Provincial Championships must be sent to Soccer Nova Scotia as part of the Championship report.

All harassment issues will be brought immediately to the attention of the Competitions Committee Chair.

### 4.13.2 Conduct at Provincial Championships

Unsportsmanlike conduct and conduct likely to bring the game of soccer into disrepute are not acceptable at Provincial Championships. It is the responsibility of Soccer Nova Scotia to discipline such conduct. The Soccer Nova Scotia Representative at each Provincial Championship shall submit a report (with relevant documentation) of such conduct within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the Championship.

### 4.13.3 Procedure for Discipline Hearings

Misconduct by players or team officials reported by the referee shall be dealt with by the Tournament Discipline Committee through a hearing prior to the next game, except as noted below:

- For any misconduct in his/her team's final games in any competition, discipline shall be delegated to the District in membership which the player or team official represents.

The Tournament Discipline Committee shall conduct hearings to deal with misconduct in accordance with the Soccer Nova Scotia Policies and Procedures. The Tournament Discipline Committee's decisions are final and binding. The membership District of the player or team official involved shall be informed of the Tournament Discipline Committee's decision.

All players or team officials reported for misconduct that requires a hearing shall attend the Tournament Discipline Committee hearing and may be accompanied by a club Representative. Failure to attend the hearing after notification by the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative shall result in immediate suspension until the player or team official involved requests a further hearing in writing and appears at that subsequent hearing.

The Tournament Discipline Committee shall also hold a hearing into the behaviour off the field of play of any players or team official alleged by the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative to have brought the game into disrepute. The Committee may take any disciplinary action it sees fit, including suspension from all remaining soccer activity at the Tournament.

#### **DISCIPLINE MEETING DETAILED PROCEEDINGS**

The Chairperson shall read the report and state the charge.

If present, the person(s) who wrote the report(s) shall be given the opportunity to amplify or qualify the report.

The accused, and the person(s) who wrote the report(s), shall have the opportunity to call witnesses to the incident.

The Chairperson and any Discipline Hearing Committee member may question the accused or any witness.

The person(s) who wrote the report, and the accused, shall be allowed to make final summations before withdrawing.

The Discipline Hearing Committee shall consider the report and any further evidence provided, and shall decide on the case, in accordance with the Soccer Nova Scotia Discipline and Appeals procedures.

The accused shall be notified in writing of the result of the hearing

#### **4.13.4 Discipline Hearing Reports**

The Soccer Nova Scotia Rep shall deliver Discipline Reports to the Soccer Nova Scotia Office within 48 hours of the conclusion of the hearing.

#### **4.14 Protests**

Any protest arising out of any game in a Soccer Nova Scotia competition shall be made in writing to the Soccer Nova Scotia Representative within one (1) hour of the completion of the game, accompanied by a protest fee of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) in cash or cheque, payable to Soccer Nova Scotia, to be donated to KidSport.

The Tournament Discipline Committee shall rule on the protest, including the disposition of the protest fee.

Any decision taken on a protest shall be final and binding, as far as the competition is concerned.

#### **4.15 Awards**

All banners or medals presented to teams at the Provincial Championships will become the property of the teams that receive them.

Soccer Nova Scotia will provide each LOC with Provincial Championship medals and banners. Each LOC is responsible for their own medal presentation.

## 4.16 Tournament Expenses

### 4.16.1 Referee Payment and Fees

Soccer Nova Scotia will cover the cost of all referees for the Provincial Championships. Hosts will receive a cheque made payable to their district in their pre-tournament package. Hosts will receive their pre-tournament package the week of hosting Provincial Championship

See referee fee structure document for breakdown of referee fees.

### 4.16.2 Hosting Grant

All other hosting grants will be proportionate, dependent on the number of teams participating. Hosting grants will be paid 50% upon acceptance of hosting and 50% upon fulfilling all requirements of hosting. Soccer Nova Scotia will not be responsible for any additional costs Host Associations may incur.

| ENTRENCE COST PER TEAM - A/B/AA Provincials |       |
|---|-------|
| 4 Team Provincial Championship              | \$390 |
| 6 Team Provincial Championship              | \$415 |
| 8 Team Provincial Championship              | \$415 |

| HOSTING GRANT (S) (Host Provides Own Medical) | Each LOC will receive a Hosting Grant |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 4 Team Provincial Championship                | \$500.00                              |
| 6 Team Provincial Championship                | \$750.00                              |
| 8 Team Provincial Championship                | \$1000.00                             |

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## APPENDIX A - NATIONAL REPS CUP COMPETITION 2019

### Rules and Guidelines

A "Cup Competition" format shall be used to determine the Nova Scotia Club Nationals representative teams for U15 & U17 National Championships.

The Cup competition shall be open to all AA/AAA level teams and shall be held for U15 and U17 Boys and Girls, leading to the declaration of the Nova Scotia representative team for these 4 National Championships.

The scheduling and management of all Cup competitions shall be the responsibility of Soccer Nova Scotia or designated host.

#### General Cup Format

Each Cup competition shall be scheduled for three rounds (unless only four (4) teams, which shall be schedule for two (2) rounds)

Teams will be scheduled to play a two (2) game home-away series, with the series winner declared on an aggregate goal system (no away goal bonus) and shall include a penalty shoot-out at the end of the second game if required to declare a winner.

Every effort will be made to play games on Tuesday or Wednesday Nights, but may be any day of the week.

There will be a \$50.00 entry fee for all teams, and the Home team shall be responsible for payment of game officials and any field rental costs.

U15 AA teams are eligible to enter but will be cup tied as outlined by Canada Soccer Rules & Regulations.

Teams entering the Cup Competition must complete their entire schedule. For teams not completing their match schedule:

- a fine of \$750.00 will be applied to the club of the applicable team, plus any applicable game related fees;
- the players and coaches of such team shall be considered as not eligible for the Cup/ Provincial Championships the following year;

Any team forfeiting any game will automatically be removed from the Cup Competition and the opposing series team shall be declared winner of that series by default and be levied a fine as per discretion of the Competitions Committee.

Unless otherwise stated in this Appendix, all other rules and regulations listed in this Handbook shall apply to Cup competitions.

#### Seeding

All eligible teams must be playing in the NSSL. Teams will be seeded based the results of their first four (4) Nova Scotia Soccer League games of the summer season, and schedules shall be based on these seedings with highest playing lowest. Where those results lead to a tie in seeding, a random draw shall be done to determine the higher seeds.

Where the number of teams seeking to participate exceeds 8 teams, SNS may schedule a series of 'Pre-Cup' single winner games to lower the total number of first round teams to 8 teams. Where a bye is required, the highest seeded team shall be awarded a bye. AA teams are eligible to qualify if there are less than 8 AAA teams. For the purpose of seeding any AA teams that choose to compete, all AAA teams shall be seeded higher. Where a bye is required, the highest seeded team shall be awarded a bye.

### **Team Declaration**

Any Team wishing to complete in the Cup Competition must file a 'Notice to Participate' with Soccer Nova Scotia by the NSSL team declaration date (2019 – April 12). This notice must include the Club name, Team name, and Team Category (age-gender-level). Rural teams must also include designation of a home field for any Cup competitions.

### **Team Roster Declaration**

Team rosters will be pulled from the NSSL website on seeding day (see important dates table) for the first and second leg, of the Cup Competition.

All players must be properly registered on the team as required by Soccer Nova Scotia regulations.

Each player must be:

- A Canadian Citizen; or
- A Permanent Resident (as defined by the Government of Canada), or;
- A Protected Person (as defined by the Government of Canada)

There shall be no call-ups permitted.

All rules applying to team sizes, coaching qualifications and substitution for Nationals apply. To be eligible to participate in the Cup Competitions a team must have a minimum of seventeen (17) registered players who are eligible to participate in cup competition leading to a National Competition.

### **Cup-Tieing of Players**

For the avoidance of doubt a player is cup tied where they have participated at the Cup Competition leading to the winner qualifying for the respective National Championship. Participated meaning, his or her name is listed on the game sheet.

### **Duration of Play, Tie-breaking, and Substitutions**

| <b>AGE GROUP</b> | <b>REGULAR</b>        | <b>EXTRA-TIME**</b>   | <b>SIZE OF FOOTBALL</b> | <b>HALF-TIME</b>  |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>U17</b>       | <b>2 x 45 minutes</b> | <b>2 x 15 minutes</b> | <b>5</b>                | <b>10 minutes</b> |
| <b>U15</b>       | <b>2 x 40 minutes</b> | <b>2 x 10 minutes</b> | <b>5</b>                | <b>10 minutes</b> |

\*\*Extra-time shall only take place in the Champion Leg of the competition. For the first 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the Cup a Penalty shootout as per FIFA regulations after 2<sup>nd</sup> game if required.

Cup competition games where the score is tied at the end of regulation time in the last leg of competition, winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

A maximum of five (5) substitutions shall be allowed in regulation time including extra-time. Unlimited substitutions may be made at half-time, or at the end of regulation time before extra time. A player who has been substituted is eligible to re-enter.

### Discipline

All standard SNS Discipline policies shall apply to this competition. This competition shall be recognized as an independent competition.

### Fixture Dates

The following dates shall be used as a guideline for scheduling Cup competitions. Games may be moved to different days within the same weeks due to field availability, on unforeseen circumstances according to Soccer Nova Scotia.

#### UNDER 15 - BOYS & GIRLS

| DATE                            | EVENT  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| June 8 – June 14 <sup>th</sup>  | for any prequalifying AA challenge games (if required)             |
| June 15 <sup>th</sup>           | Seeding Day for Quarter Finals / Rosters Pulled from NSSL          |
| June 19 -July 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Leg – Quarter Finals - Game 1-2 (4 games each day) |
| July 17 <sup>th</sup>           | Seeding Day for Semi Finals/ Rosters Pulled from NSSL              |
| July 23 – July 31 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg – Semi Finals – Games 1-2 (2 games each day)   |
| Aug 10 – Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>   | Champion Leg (single game)   |

#### UNDER 17 - BOYS & GIRLS

| DATE                            | EVENT  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| June 12 – June 18 <sup>th</sup> | Any prequalifying AA challenge games (if required)                 |
| June 19 <sup>th</sup>           | Seeding Day for Quarter Finals/ Rosters Pulled from NSSL           |
| June 25 – July 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Leg – Quarter Finals - Game 1-2 (4 games each day) |
| July 17 <sup>th</sup>           | Seeding Day for Semi Finals/ Rosters Pulled from NSSL              |
| July 23 – July 31 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg – Semi Finals – Games 1-2 (2 games each day)   |
| Aug 10 – Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>   | Champion Leg (single game)   |

### Referee Appointments

Referee appointments will be made by the SNS RDO with support from the Chief Assessor and Referee Assessment Program.

A 4<sup>th</sup> official will be appointed to all cup games.

Referee levels for the cup competition will be:

|               | Referee | AR1 | AR2 | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
|---------------|---------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| U17 Boys AAA  | 8       | 5   | 4   | 7               |
| U17 Girls AAA | 7       | 4   | 4   | 6               |
| U15 Boys AAA  | 7       | 4   | 4   | 6               |
| U15 Girls AAA | 6       | 3   | 3   | 5               |

Exceptions to these designations must be approved in advance of appointment by the Referee Assessor and Referee Assessment Program.

Where possible SNS will appoint a Referee Assessor or Mentor to all games. When appointed, this person will serve as the Supervisor of Officials for that game and will provide support to the Referees in making any necessary pre-game decisions. Costs will be paid for by the Referee Assessment Program.